

First kingdoms
and counties



The consolidation of
the Christian
kingdoms

Unit 4: The first peninsular kingdoms

VIII-XIII centuries

Santiago's Path

Reconquest and
Resettlement

How were the first Christian kingdoms formed?

During the invasion of the Iberian Peninsula by the Muslim army, only a **narrow stretch of land in the north** remained outside the control of the Andalusí emirs.

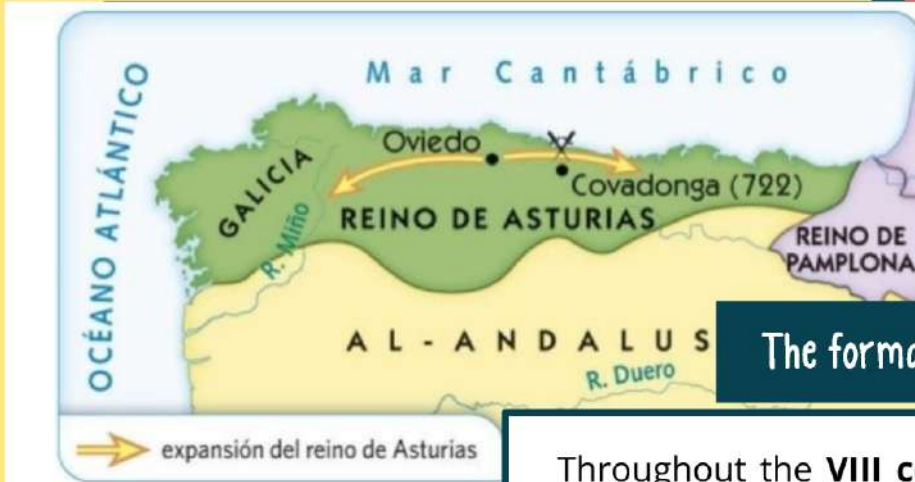
Inhabitants of this region were made to pay **tributes** to these emirs in order to be able to continue living in these lands.

This favored the formation of **areas that resisted** the Islamic rule, just in the place where the Visigothic nobles had fled from the conquest.

Asturias

Marca Hispánica





The formation of the Kingdoms of Asturias

Throughout the **VIII century** some local leaders from the mountains areas in Asturias, refused to pay those tributes to Córdoba. The most famous one was **Pelayo**, who defeated the Muslims in Covadonga (722).

After the emirs accepted they would never be able to control this territory, the new **kingdom of Asturias** emerged with Alfonso I and Alfonso II as its first monarchs. This last made **Oviedo** the capital and re-established some Visigothics laws.



The Marca Hispánica and the first Pyrenean kingdoms.

While the Kingdom of Asturias was gaining strength, the Frankish king **Carlomagno** led several attacks on Hispanic territory against the Muslims.

Finally, he obtained control of the cities of Pamplona, Jaca, Girona and Barcelona, amplifying the boundaries of his Kingdom. To reinforce them, Carlomagno created a defensive and fortified zone along the Pyrenees known as the **Marca Hispánica**. As a defensive measure, the marca was divided into **counties** governed by a count who swore allegiance to the Frankish king.

After the death of Carlomagno, the counts tended to become independent and make their territories hereditary. This was how the **Kingdom of Pamplona**, the **Aragonese counties** and the **Catalan counties** were created.

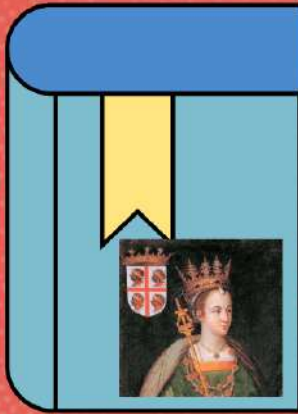


The Battle of Roncesvalles

At the end of the VIII century, Carlomagno led an army with the aim to conquering **Zaragoza** and incorporate the north of the Ebro Valley into his empire.

After failing in this attempt and returning home, his nephew was ambushed by a group of Basques in **Roncesvalles** (778).





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How did the Reconquest start?

In the second half of the IX century, the king of Asturias, **Alfonso III**, took advantage of internal conflict and the weakness of the emirs of Córdoba to **expand his territory**.

Little by little he conquered the uninhabited region from the **Cordillera Cantábrica to**



the River Duero.

After the expansion, cities like Astorga, León or Zamora became part of the Kingdom of Asturias.

Kingdom of León

Kingdom of Castilla

VIII - XII centuries in the Pyrenean territories

A stable border

The advance of the Christian kingdoms

Let's do a listening!

The creation of the Kingdom of León

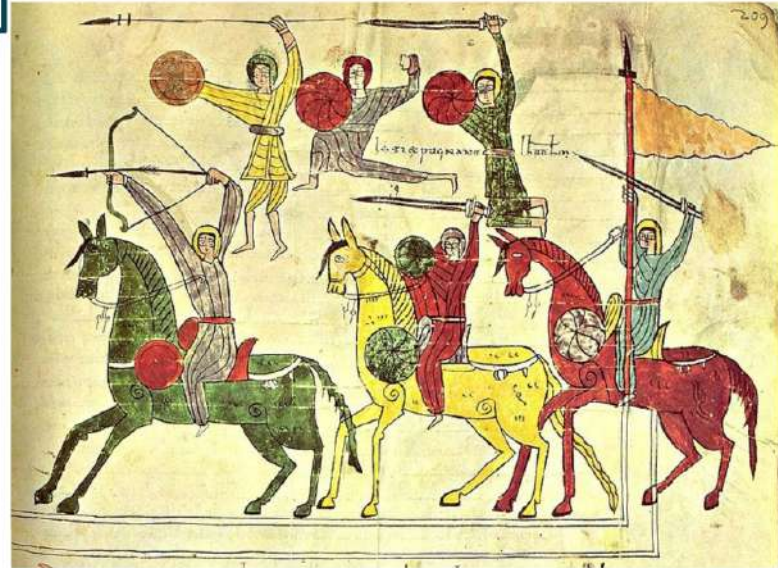
Meanwhile, to effectively occupy the right side of the Duero Valley, it was necessary to **resettle**. So peasant families from the cantabrian valleys were encouraged to move to the area.

To control the territory, **King Ordoño II** moved his court to León (914) and made it his capital. This expansion was so important that the Kingdom of Asturias became the **Kingdom of León**



X century... A stable border

The Kingdom of León continued to expand up but the **Muslims were quick to react**. Al-Ándalus had increased its military power since the proclamation of the Caliphate and **Al-Mansur**, an important military leader, tried to win back cities like Santiago, León or Zamora through violent **raids**. As a result, the new Kingdom stopped expanding while the kings tried to **secure the border** along the River Duero.



**RAIDS: a rapid surprise attack on an enemy by troops, aircraft, or other armed forces.*

How was the Kingdom of Castilla formed?

Nearly all the **Muslims attacks** on the Kingdom of León came from the East, so **to defend this territory**, the kings, in particular Alfonso III, **built castles and gave lands and military power** to various counts. As a result the area became known as **Castile** (land of castles).

As these territories were not directly controlled, the counts began to act more and more independently. In the X century, the count **Fernán González** took advantage in the unification of the counties and he declared his **title hereditary**, creating the **County of Castilla**.

One century later, this county was incorporated to the **Kingdom of Pamplona**. But the **marriage between the prince Fernando I and a leonese princess** joined the Kingdom of León to his territories. That means, we are in front of the **first monarchs of Castilla and León**.



THE PYRENEAN COUNTIES AND KINGDOMS

During the **IX century**, the Pyrenean counties belonging to the Carolingian's Empire *Marca Hispánica* started to break free to form the following kingdoms:

--> **The Kingdom of Pamplona**: this lands were occupied by the **Basques** who resisted pressure from the Franks and the Muslims. It was the **Arista dynasty** who established the new kingdom after defeated the Franks and during the X century, it took control of Álava and La Rioja.

--> **The Kingdom of Aragón**: during the IX century the counties of **Aragón, Sobrarbe and Ribagorza** united, paving the way for the creation of the new kingdom in the XI century.



The Catalan
counties

The Catalan counties

In the late IX century, **Wilfredo "el Velloso"**, count of Barcelona, annexed most of the Catalan counties and made his position as leader **hereditary**.

This territory was named **Catalonia** and finally became independent when Wilfredo's grandson broke away from the Frankish in the late X century.

In the following two centuries the County of Barcelona expanded its territory north of the Pyrenees and towards the Muslims lands in the Ebro Valley.



The weakening of Al-Ándalus

The division of the Caliphate into small **taifas** weakened Al-Ándalus militarily and benefited the Christian Kingdoms. The taifa rulers obtained a temporary peace by paying an annual tribute of gold and precious metals called **parias**, to the Christian kings. However, they used this money to become stronger and improve their armies.

The **new Christian expansion** developed between the XI and the XII centuries in the following steps:

1°--> **Fernando I** of Castilla and León put pressure on the taifas in the area of the **Tajo valley** and directed the resettlement of cities like Salamanca and Ávila.

2°--> **Alfonso VI** reconquered **Toledo** (1085) and occupied the centre of the peninsula.

3°--> Expansion stopped because of the **Almoravids** and the **Almohads**.

4°--> The Ebro valley was reconquered by the Kingdom of Aragón (Zaragoza) and the County of Barcelona (Tarragona)

=GOOGLETRANSLATE(R[O]J[-9], "en", "es")

LA RECONQUISTA EN LOS SIGLOS XI Y XII



What was the resettlement?

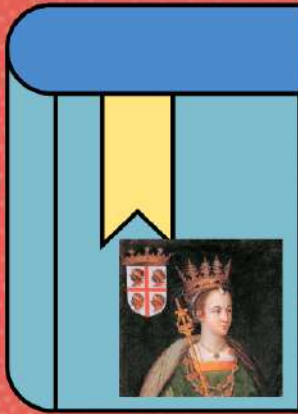
It involved the occupation of lands that had been deserted or had been reclaimed from Al-Ándalus by Christian kings. We find two types, go to page 83 and complete the table.

Free resettlement (IX-X centuries)

Concejiles resettlement (XI-XII centuries)

HOMEWORK

Look for towns and villages whose name came from the resettlement period.



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THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PENINSULAR KINGDOMS

Territorial expansion and the payment of *parias* to the Christian kings, strengthened their power and enabled them to **consolidate their territory** and **create new laws and institutions**.

This process of consolidation was also carried out through **marriage and inheritance**.



HOMEWORK!

Find information about your last names and create a family tree for your great-great-grandparents

The Kingdom of
Navarra

The Crown of
Aragón

The Crown of
Castilla

The kingdom of
Portugal

THE CROWN OF CASTILLA

The unification of Castilla and León lasted until the death of **Fernando I** (remember the kingdoms were unified under his reign). Actually this territory united again for over a century (Urraca was one the most important queen it had) before it continued to be **united and separated several times** for hereditary reasons.

The two kingdoms were finally unified in 1230, when **Fernando III** (El Santo), inherited the Kingdom of Castilla from his mother and the Kingdom of León from his father.

The result of this union was the **Crown of Castilla**, which had a major role in the final phase of the Christian conquest.



THE KINGDOM OF PORTUGAL

Portugal was part of the Kingdom of León until the early XII century, when due to inheritance, it became a county, although dependent of the kingdom. It became finally independent in 1128, when Count **Alfonso Henriques** proclaimed himself king of Portugal as **Alfonso I**.



THE FORMATION OF THE CROWN OF ARAGÓN

During the mid XII century, the marriage between **Petronilla** (daughter and heir of the Aragonese king) and **Ramon Berenguer IV** (count of Barcelona) led to the creation of the **Crown of Aragón**.

Their son, **Alfonso II**, inherited both territories and became the first king of Aragón, including in his kingdom the Catalan counties and the Occitania territories, north of the Pyrenees.

**The wedding between Petronilla and Ramon Berenguer was celebrated when she was 14 years old.*

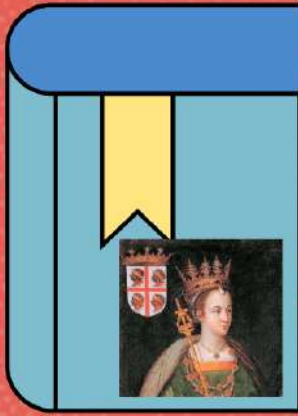


THE KINGDOM OF NAVARRA

In the XI century, during the reign of **Sancho Ramírez of Aragón**, the **Kingdom of Pamplona** was **temporary annexed** to this one. But only half a century later it was separated again from Aragón and became a kingdom under the rules of **García Ramírez**.

In 1162, king Sancho IV changed the name to the **Kingdom of Navarra**.





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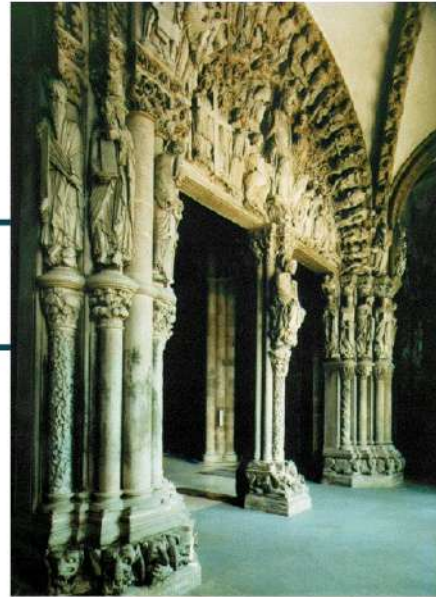
THE JACOBEAN ROUTE

In the **IX century**, according to the ancient texts, **the tomb of Santiago was found** in Galicia. The location was named Compostela which means "field of stars". King Alfonso II of Asturias ordered the construction of a **church** on this site and **pilgrimages** began in the XI century when **routes** were properly organized from different parts of Europe.

The Path became a route of **cultural and commercial exchange**, Towns grew around and trade developed. There monarchs and the church encouraged the building of inns, hospitals and churches to help the pilgrims.

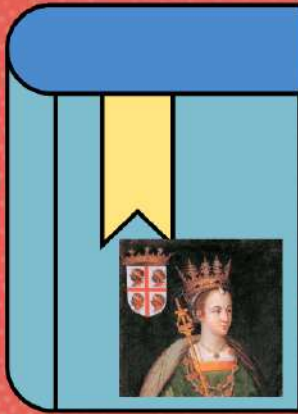
Thesis I





THE PILGRIMAGE

The pilgrims walked the Path in **groups** for protection. They wore suitable clothes for walking long distances and a **scallop shell** to identify themselves as pilgrims. The final destination was the Cathedral of Santiago where they had to visit the tomb of the apostle.



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